

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action mailed on March 24, 2008. As a result, claims 1-24 are now pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0123967) in view of Savage et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0026394), and further in view of Pickering (U.S. Patent No. 5,684,965). (Notably, the text of the rejection refers to a Bouvier reference; however, this reference is not specifically identified by a publication number.)

In response, applicant submits respectfully that the rejection is moot in view of the amendment of independent claims 1, 11, 16, and 21. Specifically, claim 1, 16, and 21 now require that “the access control facility includes means for interactive settlement of a legal dispute.” And claim 11 requires an act of “at an access control facility accessible via a global data processing network, maintaining user information, permitting or denying a user to login into an access controlled environment maintained within a data processing environment, and interactively engaging in communications to settle a legal dispute.” (Exemplary support for this language is found at least at paragraph [0091] of the application.)

None of the art of record appears to meet this requirement. Accordingly, applicant requests respectfully that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the §103 rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amended application, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections. Additionally, applicant invites the Examiner to telephone applicant’s patent counsel Eduardo Drake at (612) 349-9593 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111

Serial Number:09/775,532

Filing Date: February 2, 2001

Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING BILLING ALLOCATION WITHIN AN ACCESS CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT
VIA A GLOBAL NETWORK SUCH AS THE INTERNET

Page 10
Dkt: 962.076US1

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

24 Sept. 2008

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 24th day of June, 2008.

Name

Eduardo E. Drake

Signature